

**Interagency Agreement  
between  
Area Authority  
And  
Local Stakeholders of Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
Prevention  
Regarding Residential Services to At Risk Children  
In Need of Mental Health or Substance Abuse Treatment**

This Agreement is made and entered into as of the date set forth below, by and between the \_\_\_\_\_ Local Area Authority for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse (Area Authority), and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Chief Court Counselor of \_\_\_\_\_ District, and the \_\_\_\_\_ Director of involved Youth Academy.

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, each party recognizes and supports the state level Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services and The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Regarding Residential Services to Children in Need of Mental Health or Substance Abuse Treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the law requires that the Residential Treatment Services Program provides appropriate and medically necessary residential treatment alternatives for children at risk of institutionalization or other out-of-home placement; and

**WHEREAS**, for the purpose of this agreement, the population addressed will be those youth in the juvenile justice system who have been admitted to the "At Risk Program"(hereinafter, an "At Risk" child is one who has met the State criteria for, has been admitted to, and is receiving funds from the "At Risk Program") or who require residential treatment and have access to resources to support such treatment, and

**WHEREAS**, Area Authorities, and local stakeholders of DJJDP, including Court Counselors, Youth Academies, and/or Detention Centers, all have children who may be at risk for institutionalization and/or out of home placement, some of whom may be served by more than one agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this agreement is to coordinate at the local level the administration, financing, care and placement of children at risk of institutionalization or other out-of-home placement, within available resources, and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the need to share information between Area Authorities and Juvenile Justice to provide for a seamless continuum of service.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the parties hereby agree to the following:

**1. DJJDP agrees to:**

- (a) Conduct, as of November 1, 2000, a Risk and Needs Assessment for all children entering the Juvenile Court System.
- (b) Use the Risk and Needs Assessment, as well as other information, to determine if the child is in need of a referral for a preliminary mental health screening to determine eligibility for At Risk Residential Placement.
- (c) Refer the child who is identified to be in need of a preliminary mental health screening, to their DSS of origin for Medicaid eligibility or Health Choice eligibility, at the same time of referral to the home Area Program for preliminary mental health screening, within the time frame defined in 1.(d).
- (d) Refer the child identified in 1.(c) to the home Area Program for a preliminary mental health screening within 10 working days. Provide initial recommendation regarding clients' imminent risk of out of home placement. Provide name, Medicaid Identification Number if applicable, signature of consent for the referral and other therapeutically relevant information, as requested, for certificate of need. Transport to home Area Program or arrange for on-site screening as needed.
- (e) Participate in Child and Family Team meetings to address treatment and residential placement needs for the At Risk Child and for other children who require residential treatment and who have access to resources supporting such placement.
- (f) Perform psychological and educational testing for an At Risk Child who has been determined to need residential treatment and is residing in a Youth Academy or Detention Center waiting for a residential bed if required for referral to a residential facility.
- (g) Provide participation through the Youth Academy Director or designee, and/or the Chief Court Counselor or designee, in the development of a Local Community Collaborative that can appropriately assess the collective treatment, medical, academic/vocational and financial needs of the targeted population.

**2. Area Authority agrees to:**

- (a) Conduct preliminary mental health screening, in conjunction with the referral source—DJJDP, for any child referred from DJJDP, to determine if child may meet state criteria for the At Risk Program, or may be in need of residential treatment.
- (b) Conduct preliminary mental health screening for any referred child screened by DJJDP as potentially imminently at risk of out of home placement, within 30 working days. Maintain prioritized waiting list and participate in State organized Waiting List designed to track number of children referred for mental health screening, time frame for conducting screening, needs of client, and priority level.
- (c) Coordinate Child and Family Team for At Risk Child and schedule Team meeting to coincide with completion of preliminary mental health screening to determine treatment needs and appropriate level of residential treatment up to and including PRTF.

- (d) Provide Clinical Case Management and other case management for At Risk Child as appropriate and agreed upon in Child and Family Team meeting.
- (e) Provide appropriate clinical services, within available resources, as indicated by the Child and Family Team Service Plan for At Risk Child who has been determined to need residential treatment, is residing in a Youth Academy or Detention Center, and is waiting for a residential bed.
- (f) Bill Medicaid, Health Choice or coordinate other funding streams for appropriate services when applicable.
- (g) Provide participation, through the Area Director or designee, in the development of a Local Community Collaborative that can appropriately assess the treatment, medical, academic/vocational and financial needs of the targeted population.

### **Definitions:**

**Child and Family Team:** clinical team to address treatment needs. Participants may include: mental health case manager, DSS social worker, DJJDP court counselor, parents and other family members, community supports (pastor, big brother/big sister), teacher, therapist, and other stakeholders.

**Local Community Collaborative:** this is a team that may include representation from: parents, advocacy groups, Area Director or designee, DJJDP Directors of Youth Academies or designee, Chief Court Counselors or designee, DSS Directors or designee, and other stakeholders. The purpose of this collaborative includes the following: (a) to appropriately assess the collective treatment, medical, academic/vocational and financial needs of the targeted population, (b) to monitor number of clients served, and waiting list of priority populations, (c) to monitor dollars spent on categories of services, (d) to identify gaps in services and barriers to obtaining needed services and resources, and (e) to assess training and technical assistance needs of involved stakeholders.

### **SIGNATURES OF PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT:**

<b>Area Director, Area Authority</b>	<b>Area Program</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Chief Court Counselor</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Director, Youth Academy</b>	<b>Youth Academy</b>	<b>Date</b>